

Hi -It's time to let you know what's new!

The Madison County Sheriff's Office sponsored a two day K-9 Decoy training school on May 20 and 21, 2008. The weather wanted to put up a fuss and a few of the handlers were unable to make it but we went ahead with the two day event in spite of all that.

Master K-9 Trainer, Dale Bradeberry from the USFS in Kalispell provided instruction and demonstrations with his female Malinois, K-9 Saber.

Most of the school was hands on practical situations and problem solving.



Our new officer, Kimber Williams took to the decoy work like a fish to water. Brandeberry said Williams was a real natural and quickly learned the basics. Officer Mike Worton from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office learned about K-9 behavior, picked up the basics of K-9 patrol work and is eager to assist with more training. Worton has set his sights on getting a Police K-9 and wants to learn all he can in the mean while.

K-9 Shay and I learned several new maneuvers and worked hard to improve our skills. Shay will be four years old the end of July and improves with every training session. We have been called to assist other agencies numerous times and continually look forward to making the criminal element nervous. Our efforts continue to grow strong relationships with everyone in the communities and we are always up to a challenge.

Everyone learned about body bite suit work, hidden sleeve work, muzzle ground fighting, searches and tactical concerns. We will be doing more training in the future and look forward to having Deputy Scott Burlingame and Undersheriff Roger Thompson join in as well.

Even though the two day school focused on bite work and criminal apprehension, we will add in narcotics detection to future training

Officer and K-9 handler Alan Ronneberg from the Sweetgrass County Sheriff's Office in Big Timber attended with his Malinois K-9 partner, Telle. Ronneberg has been a K-9 handler for over seven years and brought several new techniques and ideas to the school. Watching them work made everyone quickly realize that Ronneberg and Telle are a force to be reckoned with if you're a bad guy.

Watch for notice of the next K-9 training session in Madison County. I hope more citizens are able to attend and observe the hard work, not to mention the dedication it takes to keep sharp on all aspects of K-9 work.

Dan S. Birdsill
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Madison County Sheriff

